

Building and Deploying RapidInstall Packages (RIPs) for HP Compaq t57x0 Thin Clients



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Abstract

This paper provides instructions to create and deploy RIPs using Altiris Deployment Solution for HP Compaq t57x0 thin clients

Introduction

A RapidInstall Package (RIP) is a single executable file, which installs software, files, or registry changes and can be used to install patches or driver updates to a system. A RIP allows the administrator to install software without the end user seeing any prompts or experiencing any disruption. A RIP is normally created using the following steps:

1. Take a virtual snapshot of the system as a baseline.
2. Make changes to the system.
3. Take another virtual snapshot after changes are made.
4. Apply the difference into the RIP executable.

A RIP is created using either the RIP Creation Wizard or the editor. The steps for creating and deploying RIPs on the HP Compaq t57x0 thin clients are essentially the same as for a PC, except that additional steps are required to disable and enable the write filter.

IMPORTANT: You must update any RIPs that were created with an older version of Altiris Deployment Solution. For example, if you are running Altiris Deployment Solution 6.0, you must update RIPs created on Deployment Solution 5.6. For additional information, please see the "Updating an Old RapidInstall Package" white paper.

NOTE: Many of the drivers and patches posted on the HP thin client driver download website at <http://www.hp.com/support> are already in RIP format and can be identified as "Altiris XPe Add-on". To use these addons, download the appropriate softpaq from the web, edit the enclosed sample batch file as needed, and deploy the addon by using the instructions below under "Deploying a RIP Using Deployment Server". The RIP package may have additional documentation on its use.

Disable the Write Filter

Prior to creating or deploying a RIP, make sure the write filter is disabled on the HP Compaq t57x0 thin clients. If the write filter is not disabled then all changes made to the system will be discarded at the next reboot. This could cause problems during deployment as well. Some of the changes to the system may be discarded during the installation.

To disable the write filter, run the `ewfmgr c: -disable` command locally, then reboot. If you are using the Enhanced Write Filter GUI, disable the write filter by clicking the Disable button, then reboot.

Building RIPs Using the RIP Creation Wizard

The easiest way to set a baseline and build a RIP is using the RIP Creation Wizard. The Wizard guides you through the following tasks:

- Setting a baseline

- Selecting and using an existing baseline
- Making desired changes to the baseline computer
- Building the RIP

Setting a Baseline

To set a baseline on the client's unit, complete the following steps:

1. Ensure that the HP Compaq t57x0 thin clients is a baseline system. A baseline system is a system in which configuration changes or software programs you want to distribute are not already present on the thin client. To disable the write filter on the t57x0, run the disable command (ewfmgr c: -disable), then reboot. If you are using the Enhanced Write Filter GUI, disable the write filter by clicking the Disable button, then reboot.
2. Start the RIP Creation Wizard by doing the following: Click Start > Run. Type: \\%DSconsole%\express\rinstall\RapidInstall.exe (%DSconsole% is the name assigned to the Altiris server for DSConsole).
3. Click Create RIP.
4. Click Set baseline before creating RIP and click Next.
5. Enter a directory, name, and description for the baseline. By default, RIP files are saved to C:\Program files\altiris\express\deployment server\rinstall.
6. Click Next.

RapidInstall scans the PC and creates a baseline file. Think of this file as a "before" snapshot of the thin client's hard drive and registry configuration. Make desired changes to the computer. Once you have a baseline file, you can make any software changes to the t57x0. A baseline can be used repeatedly but any changes to the baseline will go into the RIP.

You can close the RIP Creation Wizard while you make your changes. When you restart the Wizard, it will resume where it left off.

Building a RIP

To build a RIP, complete the following steps:

1. After you have made changes to the HP Compaq t5700 thin clients, restart the RIP Creation Wizard (if not already running). If a baseline has not been saved previously, the following options appear:
 - Create RIP
 - Proceed to Editor
 - Browse for a RapidInstall Package (RIP)
 - Edit a recent RapidInstall Package (RIP)
2. Enter a directory, name, and description for the RIP.
3. To customize file replacement behavior, run options, passwords, or install visuals, click RIP Options. Select desired options. When complete, go on to next step.
4. Click Next to build the RIP. RapidInstall builds the RIP by comparing the changes you made to the Thin Client against the baseline you set earlier.



5. If you would like to make more changes to the RIP, select Edit RIP and click Finish. If you are satisfied with the RIP, clear the Edit RIP check box and click Finish.

Depending on how you have configured them, RIPs can make extensive changes to a machine. Before distributing them to end users, you should test the RIP on a different, non-critical t57x0. Test the RIP to verify that it performs as expected and that the applications distributed by the RIP run normally. To install the RIP on a target thin client, copy it to a network share or to the target thin client itself and then double-click the RIP.

You can also deploy the RIP using Altiris Deployment Server.

Deploying a RIP Using Deployment Server

Distribute software packages to managed computers using the New Job Wizard or by adding the Distribute Software task when Building New Jobs. These steps show how to create an event that will handle the write filter correctly during a RIP installation.

1. Right click in the Job window of Deployment console and choose New Job.
2. Enter a name for the Job, usually the name of the RIP being deployed.
3. Select Add > Run Script in the upper right corner of the job window.
4. Type `ewfmgr c: -disable` in the Run this Script window and check the radial button indicating the script must be run in Windows. Click Finish.
5. Select Add > Power Control in the upper right corner of the job window.
6. Check the radial buttons for Restart and Force Applications to close without a message. Click Finish.
7. Select Add > Distribute Software in the upper right corner of the job window.
8. Enter the name and location of the package to distribute in the Name field.

If you set the password option when you created the RIP, you must enter the password for the package to run.

9. Select Add > Power Control in the upper right corner of the Job window.
10. Check the boxes for Restart and Force Applications closed. Click OK.
11. Select Add > Run Script in the upper right corner of the job window.
12. Type `ewfmgr c: -enable` in the script window.
13. Check the box indicating the script must be run in Windows. Click Finish.
14. Select Add > Power Control in the upper right corner of the Job window.
15. Check the boxes for Restart and Force Applications closed without a message. Click Finish. The Job can then be scheduled at a later time or run immediately.

For more information

For additional HP Compaq t5000 thin clients information, please refer to the following:

http://h18004.www1.hp.com/products/thinclients/index_t5000.html

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